

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday December 23, 1976 CI NIDC 76-299C

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Thursday December 23, 1976.

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[REDACTED] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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CHINA: Leadership

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[redacted] Chinese Politburo member and Peking party chairman Wu Te appears to be in serious political difficulty probably because of his persistent criticism of ousted vice premier Teng Hsiao-ping.

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[redacted] Wu is the highest ranking Chinese official so far caught up in Peking's attempts to rebuild a leadership that has been depleted by deaths and purges in the past year. His current problems are further evidence that uncertainty over Teng's future role is at the center of confusion in Peking.

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[redacted] Wu was the last senior official to call for criticism of Teng. He has not appeared in public since December 9, and he was the only active Politburo member in Peking who failed to show up at two major economic meetings in the past week.

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[redacted] //Wu was specifically accused of suppressing the riot in Peking last April that was originally blamed on Teng and that precipitated his downfall. The implication of this charge against Wu is that Teng's role in the riot may no longer be a justification for criticizing the former vice premier.// [redacted]

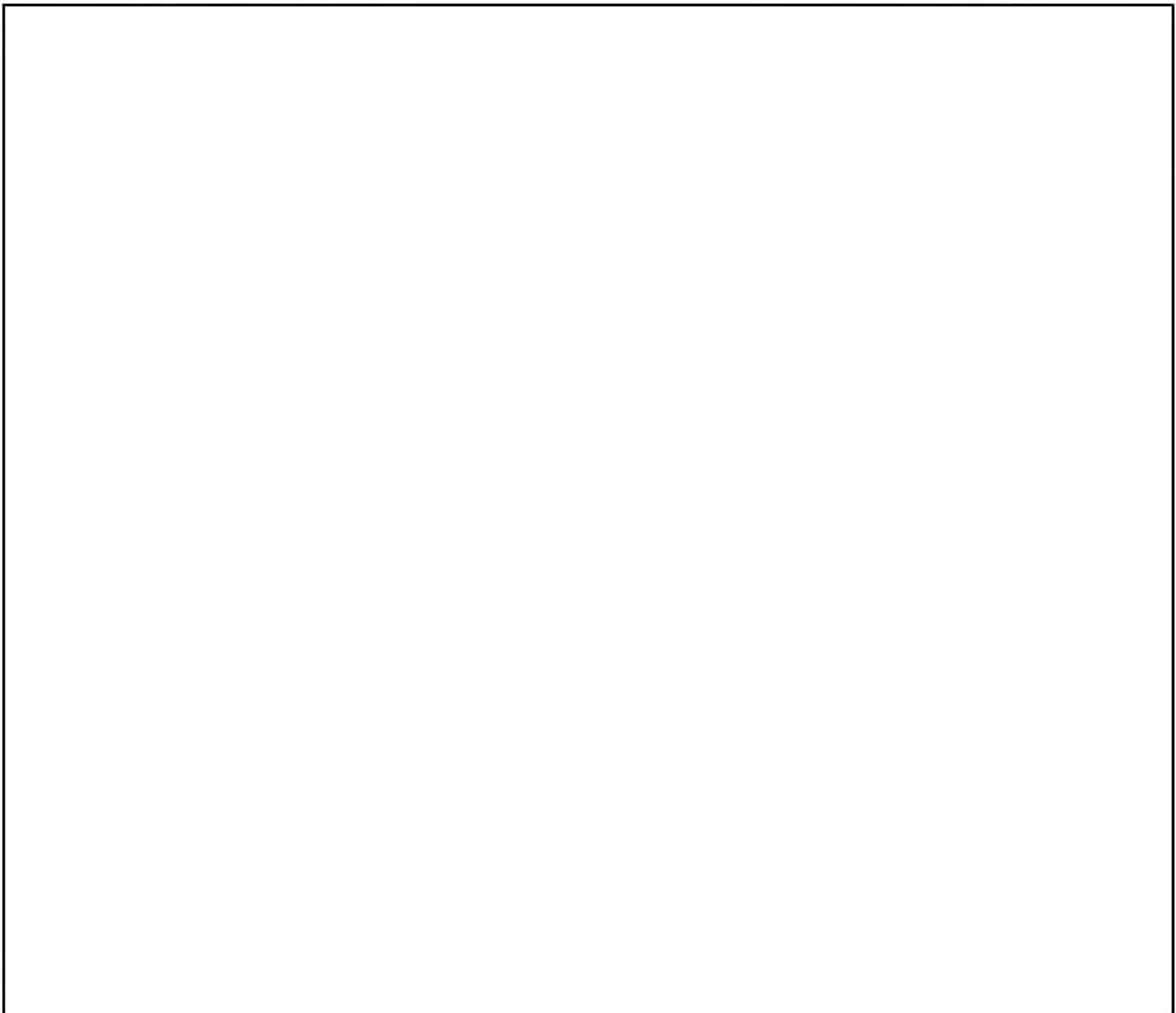
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MAURITIUS: Election Results

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The radical Mauritian Militant Movement, Prime Minister Ramgoolam's principal opposition, made a surprisingly strong showing in the parliamentary election last Monday.

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[redacted] It won more seats than Ramgoolam's Independence Party, although the MMM apparently failed by a few seats to gain a majority necessary to form a government. Emboldened by its surprising showing and near victory, the MMM is sure to begin maneuvering hard to win over the support it needs to form a government.

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[redacted] Ramgoolam is equally determined to remain in power. With no single party commanding a majority, Ramgoolam remains as caretaker prime minister and has until December 31 to form a coalition or a minority government. His only possible coalition partner is the right-of-center Mauritian Social Democratic Party, which came in third and apparently would provide barely enough seats for a majority.

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[redacted] The two parties--aligned in a coalition from 1969 to 1973--are apparently in agreement that the leftist MMM must be kept out of the government. Government leaders and others with a stake in preserving the system are especially concerned about the MMM's Marxist orientation, its numerous supporters among the youth and labor unions, and its promises to nationalize large portions of the industrial sector.

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[redacted] Regardless of which party forms a government, instability and uncertainty are likely. The new government will have a slim majority, and it will have considerable difficulty governing and staying in power. Under these circumstances, a new election is likely.

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[redacted] The size of the MMM vote probably stems from the success of its well organized supporters in exploiting the lackluster government campaign and the general hostility against those in power. Almost half of the incumbents in parliament, including a number of cabinet members, were turned out. The MMM charged the government with failing to deal with unemployment and other economic problems.

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[redacted] The opposition also apparently did well among the youth--about 40 percent of the electorate is under 30--who were attracted by the party's promises of change and its attempts to identify with third world issues and anti-Western sentiment. The MMM sharply criticized the US installation on the island of Diego Garcia, which was separated from Mauritius by the UK before independence.

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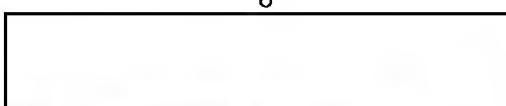
[redacted] The election campaign was free of major disturbances,
and the police have prohibited demonstrations until late this
week. The calm is unlikely to continue for long. [redacted]

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